

## LAW AND DEMOCRACY WEEK

### Course n°12: Structural Difficulties in Democracy (Ian Greene)

Ian Greene received his MA (1972) and Ph.D (1983) from the department of Political Science at the University of Toronto. He was Master at McLaughlin College (2004–2009 and 2011-2013); Director (Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law Program, 2006-2009); Co-ordinator (Graduate Diploma in Justice System Administration, 2000–2009 and 2010-2011); Co-ordinator (Graduate Diploma in Democratic Administration, 2002- 2009); Associate Director (MPA Programme, 2000-2009); Adjunct Professor (Osgoode Hall Law School, 2001-2012); Associate Dean (Faculty of Arts, 1997-2000).

In the early part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, democratic governing presents a number of specific challenges:

- A citizenry and electorate insufficiently knowledgeable about public affairs;
- As a consequence of the foregoing and of other trends in society, a citizenry and electorate to a large extent uninterested in, and cynical about, the conduct of public affairs;
- Alienation and low voter participation;
- Inaccurate and superficial media reporting;
- Loose comparisons between the private sector and government;
- Overly pronounced influence of money in the system;
- Excessive partisanship;
- Inadequate awareness of other jurisdictions and thus no basis of comparison;
- Lack of respect for institutions; and
- Insufficient teaching of democracy, law and politics in combination.

The democratic system itself must find ways of resolving, or at least attenuating these difficulties through the combination of legal, political and social means in order to avoid further risks.

This session will provide an opportunity for increased student participation and the presentation of suggestions based on the work of the seminar.